

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/648,858

Applicant(s)

SHIBUTANI, ATSUSHI

Examiner

Pritham Prabhakher

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 03/14/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2 and 21-39.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 01/26/2006
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2 and 21-39 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

*In regard to independent **Claim 2**, the closest prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest "a camera apparatus comprising: a photographing unit for photographing a subject; an image storage unit for storing an image photographed by the photographing unit; a message storage unit for storing a plurality of groups of messages, each said group comprising a plurality of messages having a same meaning that are expressed in respective different languages; a language setting unit for setting one of the different languages as a first language and for setting another of the different languages as a second language in response to a request made by a user; a message reading unit for reading out, from the message storage unit, both a message in the first language and a message in the second language from the same group as the message in the first language; a message output unit for outputting, in combination, the message in the first language and the corresponding message in the second language read out by the message reading unit; wherein the language setting unit comprises: a language specifying unit for specifying a plurality of the different languages as proposed languages for said second language based on a time difference between a reference area and another area defined by said user; and a language selecting unit for prompting the user to select one of said proposed languages as said second language".*

Regarding **Claims 21-26**, these claims are allowed as being dependent from allowed independent claim 2.

*Regarding independent **Claim 27**, the closest prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest “ a method of outputting a message in a camera apparatus, wherein the camera apparatus includes: (i) a photographing unit for photographing a subject, (ii) an image storage unit for storing an image photographed by the photographing unit, and (iii) a message storage unit for storing a plurality of groups of messages, each said group comprising a plurality of messages having a same meaning that are expressed in respective different languages, said method comprising:*

setting one of the different languages as a first language;

specifying a plurality of the different languages, other than the first language, as proposed languages for a second language based on a time difference between a reference area and another area defined by a user request;

selecting one of the proposed languages as the second language;

reading out, from the message storage unit, both a message in the first language and a message in the selected second language from the same group as the message in the first language;

outputting, in combination, the read out message in the first language and the read out corresponding message in the second language”.

Regarding **Claims 28-33**, these claims are allowed as being dependent from allowed independent claim 27.

With regard to independent **Claim 34**, the closest prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest, "a computer-readable storage medium having a computer program stored thereon, said computer program being readable by a computer in a camera apparatus, wherein the camera apparatus includes: (i) a photographing unit for photographing a subject, (ii) an image storage unit for storing an image photographed by the photographing unit, and (iii) a message storage unit for storing a plurality of groups of messages, each said group comprising a plurality of messages having a same meaning that are expressed in respective different languages, said computer program being readable by the computer to cause the computer to execute functions comprising:

setting one of the different languages as a first language;

specifying a plurality of the different languages, other than the first language, as proposed languages for a second language based on a time difference between a reference area and another area defined by a user request;

selecting one of the proposed languages as the second language;

reading out, from the message storage unit, both a message in the first language and a message in the selected second language from the same group as the message in the first language;

outputting, in combination, the read out message in the first language and the read out corresponding message in the second language”.

*Regarding **Claims 35-39**, these claims are allowed as being dependent from allowed independent claim 34.*

The following are the closest references found:

Heiman (US Pub No.: 2002/0085111A1) discloses a method for providing travel information wherein the travel information is displayed on a display of a digital camera. The travel information may be stored in a memory device of the digital camera, and retrieved from the memory device prior to displaying the information.

Shibasaki et al. (US Patent No.: 7088389B2) teaches that according to an embodiment of the present invention, a system for displaying information in a specific region includes a capturing unit for capturing a desired subject, an image capturing unit for capturing an image of the subject, a position and attitude calculating unit for calculating at least the position and the facing direction of the capturing unit on the basis of the captured image, a determining unit for determining the subject in the image captured by the image capturing unit on the basis of an output of the position and attitude calculating unit, a related information obtaining unit for obtaining at least information related to the determined subject, and a related information superimposition display unit for displaying the obtained information together with the image related to the subject on a display unit.

Conclusion

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pritham Prabhakher whose telephone number is 571-270-1128. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30-5:00) Alt Friday's Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Ometz can be reached on (571)272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

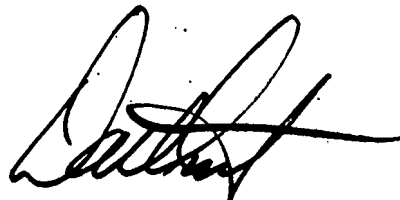
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Ometz", with a stylized, sweeping flourish extending from the end.

DAVID OMETZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER